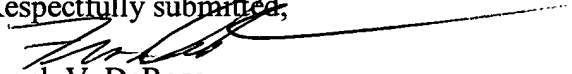


## REMARKS

Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, the claims of Group I, which now by virtue of the above amendment includes Claims 1 and 12, as well as claims 2-4, 6-8 and 19-20 (which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1) and claims 21 and 22 (which depend from claim 12). The above amendment was made to place claims 1 and 12 in generic form. Applicants respectfully request that all claims of the above elected (modified) group be maintained and considered in the current application.

As set forth in MPEP § 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though the application contains claims to independent and distinct inventions. It is respectfully submitted that simultaneous examination of the claims of modified Group I will not present a *serious* burden as such claims include subject matters that are related to the extent that all claims would undoubtedly be commonly classified. As such, it is respectfully submitted that there would be no serious burden on Examiner to simultaneously examination commonly classified claims, especially given the small number of claims of Group I. Under such circumstances, it is respectfully requested that Examiner maintain all claims in the same application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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